

14 November 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with ORR Analyst

[redacted] I had a long conversation with [redacted] of the Foreign Trade Branch, Services Division. ORR. [redacted] as a result of some unhappiness expressed by [redacted] to [redacted] [redacted] seems to be an unusually intelligent individual and, as I remember his personnel file, is well-trained for the position that he holds. He made three major points in the conversation:

1. He feels that the intelligence community is not studying the problem of Soviet economic penetration in the free world in the proper manner. It is not being done by free world country analysts in the State Department, who could best analyze the impact of the aid on the free world country, and it is not being studied by the ORR analysts responsible for covering Soviet trade policy and determining the consequences of the Soviet foreign aid effort on the Soviet economy. Instead, we are studying Soviet foreign trade activities in a separate staff which is operating in relative isolation.

2. He feels that it still takes far too much time to get a good idea or good piece of analysis out to the consumers. The time is consumed in reviews at the section, branch and division levels as well as in the editorial process. He feels that, as a result, a good deal of the timeliness in the ORR product is lost.

3. He feels that there is a failure to communicate intelligence objectives accepted by top Agency management to the working level analyst. He feels particularly that this is the fault of middle management and that middle management discourages, or at least does not encourage, imaginative research to meet intelligence interests.

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